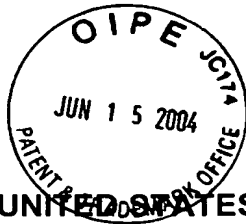


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Docket No. 3008-0042
Client No. PHNF-01230
File No. 521.41447X00



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No. : 10/000,033
Confirmation No. : 9300
Applicant : KITAMURA, et al.
Filed : December 4, 2001
TC/A.U. : 2178
Examiner : H. Herndon
Customer No. : 20457

**COMMUNICATION TO SUPERVISOR
REGARDING PRIOR STATUS CHECK SUBMITTAL**

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

June 15, 2004

Dear SPE Heather Herndon:

A formal request for status on the above-referenced application was filed on May 11, 2004.

We have yet to receive a response to our request. Accordingly, we would appreciate your assistance in ensuring prompt issuance of a response to our request.

Please feel free to contact the undersigned should you have any questions regarding this communication or the previously submitted status request.

Respectfully submitted,
ANTONELLI, TERRY, STOUT & KRAUS, LLP

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SWC/slk